

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system evaluates file metadata for files maintained in the secondary storage of a host system to determine whether one or more image files are to be downgraded. The image files selected for downgrading are reduced in size by one or more downgrading operations. The resulting file is stored in secondary storage so an image file remains in secondary storage that does not require the memory space of the previous image file. The downgrade operations may include lossless compression, lossy compression, bit depth reduction, resolution reduction, color palette, binary imaging, or a combination of a plurality of downgrade operations.